

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213014

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 12017 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA HONG KONG
LONDON PARIS TAIPEI TOKYO PEKING AND CINCPAC 22 AUG 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12017

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 1165): XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, XP, XO

SUBJ: KAPITSA ON ASIAN SECURITY SYSTEM: AUSTRALIAN REPORT

REF: MOSCOW 11928

1. ON AUGUST 21 THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR (PLIMSOLL) PASSED
TO US HIS RECORD OF A CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 19 WITH KAPITSA,
CHIF OF MFA'S FIRST FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT AND A MEMBER OF
THE MFA COLLEGIUM, ON THE SUBJECT OF ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY.
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POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE CONVERSATION WERE KAPITSA'S CONTENTION
THAT THE UK WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND HIS STATEMENT
THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD EXTEND TO COVER ISRAEL AND "THE ARAB
STATES." (AT POL COUNSELORS' MEETING SAME DAY, UK REP SAID

KAPITSA TOLD THEM JULY 25 THERE WOULD BE A ROLE IN THE SYSTEM FOR BRITAIN AS WELL AS U.S.).

2. THE TEXT OF PLIMSOLL'S REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. KAPITSA SAID THAT THE USSR DID NOT SEE THE PACT AS SOMETHING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE IDEA OF A EUROPEAN PACT HAD FIRST BEEN FLOATED IN 1966 AND HAD ONLY JUST BEEN AGREED ON. AN AGREEMENT IN ASIA WOULD TAKE LONGER TO ACHIEVE. A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASIA AND EUROPE WAS THE EXISTENCE OF BORDER DISPUTES BETWEEN SO MANY OF THE COUNTRIES. THE USSR WOULD BE PREPARED TO SETTLE FOR A FORMULA WHICH SAID SIMPLY THAT NO BOUNDARY SHOULD BE CHANGED BY FORCE. THE AREA COVERED BY THE PACT WOULD EXTEND FROM JAPAN ALL THE WAY ACROSS ASIA AND INCLUDE THE ARAB STATES; WHEN I OBJECTED THAT THIS WOULD RUN INTO THE PROBLEM OF ISRAEL, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE REALISTIC TO STOP AT IRAN, HE REPLIED THAT THE PACT WAS YEARS OFF AND ONE WOULD HOPE THAT BY THEN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE MORE SETTLED. CHINA WOULD HAVE TO BE A PARTY TO THE PACT, OTHERWISE THE PACT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE. SOME CRITICS SAID THAT THE USSR HAD PUT THE IDEA FORWARD AS A MOVE AGAINST CHINA, BUT THAT WAS NOT SO, OR AT LEAST WAS AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION. IF THE PACT CAME ABOUT, CHINA WOULD BE INVOLVED IN IT. IT WOULD BE FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO DECIDE WHAT COUNTRIES FROM OUTSIDE SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE DISCUSSIONS SETTING UP THE PACT - MOSCOW SEES THE USSR BEING THERE OF RIGHT - BUT IT BELIEVED THAT THOSE INVITED TO THE DISCUSSIONS AND TO BE MEMBERS SHOULD INCLUDE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WHICH SAW THEMSELVES (HE SAID) AS PART OF A REGION WITH ASIA, AND THOSE INVITED SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN. I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY THOUGHT OF THE GREAT POWERS GIVING GUARANTEES; KAPITSA INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT ATTRACTED TO THAT, AND THAT UNDER THE PRETEXT OF GIVING EFFECT TO A GUARANTEE THE CHINESE COULD TRY TO MOVE IN ON OTHER COUNTRIES. AGAIN IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM ME, KAPITSA INDICATED THAT THE CHINESE-USSR BORDER WOULD COME WITHIN THE COVER OF THE PACT. THE USSR HAD STARTED OFF

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BY CALLING THE CONCEPTION "COLLECTIVE SECURITY", WHICH IT REALLY WAS, BUT THE TERM "COLLECTIVE" SEEMED TO FRIGHTEN SOME PEOPLE OFF, AND USSR WAS NOW CALLING IT SIMPLY AS "ASIAN SECURITY PACT."

STOESSELV

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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